



SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT & REFORM COMMITTEE  
Proponent Testimony on SB 255  
Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Micah Derry and I am the State Director for Americans for Prosperity - Ohio. On behalf of the Ohio chapter of Americans for Prosperity, and our thousands of activists across the state, I ask for your support for **Senate Bill 255**. This bill would establish sunset provisions for occupational licenses as well as provide alternatives to licensing which will allow more Ohio citizens to achieve their Americans dream.

According to the Institute of Justice's recently released report on occupational licenses, entitled License to Work, Ohio licenses 40 lower income occupations and has the 20<sup>th</sup> most burdensome licensing laws in the country. On average this means that a person applying for these licenses has to complete 350 days of education, pass an exam and pay \$188 in fees. These include requirements of occupational licenses such as auctioneers, animal breeders and milk samplers.

Often times these requirements do not come about due to consumers complaining to lawmakers about poor or unsafe service. Rather they are lobbied for by the very industry that wants to be licensed. This is so those practicing in the occupation can restrict competition by restricting new entrants into the occupation and as a result, raise prices on consumers. Additionally, trade schools and the associations representing the industries advocate for these licenses because the legislation mandates training and continuing education which guarantees a revenue stream. According to a study from the Heritage foundation, Ohio households spend an additional \$775 per year in costs due to these licenses.

Once these licenses are in place and the licensing boards created, they face little to no scrutiny in proving to either the state or the public that they are achieving their stated goal of protecting the health and safety of consumers.

But this legislation would potentially change that.

This legislation would require that all licensing boards would be sunset every five and only reapproved by the legislature. This would also give opportunities for the standing committees

created by this law to review the effectiveness of the board and for the board to submit reports showing that the regulations created are fulfilling their task of protecting consumer health and safety. This includes taking into account how many other states license an occupation as well other important factors. Crucially the state could also determine that licenses are not necessary to protect consumers and instead replace the burdensome regulation with the “least restrictive regulation” as defined by this law.

The time for opaque and unaccountable licenses boards has gone on for too long. It is time for this legislature to reassert its authority over occupational licensing in this state and work to grant workers more opportunity while also protecting consumers. That is why we have marked SB 255 as a key vote on our legislative scorecard.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 255 help thousands of Ohio citizens have the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

Thank you again, Chairman, for the opportunity to testify before you today, and I look forward to answering any questions the committee may have.

*Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit [www.AmericansForProsperity.org](http://www.AmericansForProsperity.org).*